American Rhodes Scholars-Elect for 2012

(Subject to ratification by the Rhodes Trustees after acceptance by one of the colleges of Oxford University)

District I
HELEN E. JACK
New Hampshire—Yale University
EMMA F. LEBLANC
Rhode Island—Brown University

District II
ELIZABETH W. BUTTERWORTH
Massachusetts—Princeton University
DAVID S. PORITZ
Massachusetts—Brown University

District III
MIRIAM ROSENBAUM
New York—Princeton University
BRETT A. ROSENBERG
New York—Harvard University

District IV
NINA R. W. COHEN
Pennsylvania—Bryn Mawr College
CORY J. RODGERS
Pennsylvania—University of Pittsburgh

District V
RONAN S. FARROW
Maryland/District of Columbia—Yale University
BRANDON E. TURNER
North Carolina—Wake Forest University

District VI
NABEEL N. GILLANI
Virginia—Brown University
ISHAN NATH
Georgia—Stanford University

District VII
JOSHUA D. CARPENTER
Alabama—University of Alabama at Birmingham
CARRIE H. RYAN
Tennessee—Sewanee: The University of the South

District VIII
AYSHA N. BAGCHI
Texas—Stanford University
ANAND R. HABIB
Texas—Stanford University

District IX
MOHIT AGRAWAL
Indiana—Princeton University
VICTOR YANG
Kentucky—Harvard University

District X
SPENCER B. L. LENFIELD
Michigan—Harvard University
SARAH N. SMIERCIK
Illinois—Northwestern University

District XI
ALEXIS K. BROWN
Wisconsin—University of Wisconsin—Madison
ASTRID E. M. L. STUTH
Wisconsin—Princeton University

District XII
KELSEY R. MURRELL
Kansas—University of Kansas
KATHERINE E. NIEHAUS
South Carolina—Stanford University

District XIII
ZACHARY A. CRIPPLEN
Colorado—United States Air Force Academy
SAMUEL M. GALLER
Colorado—Harvard University

District XIV
BYRON D. GRAY
Washington—University of Washington
CAMERON W. TURTLE
Washington—University of Washington

District XV
BRIANNA R. DOHERTY
California (North)—Brown University
TENZIN SELDON
California (North)—Stanford University

District XVI
STEPHANIE J. BRYSON
California (South)—California State University—Long Beach
STEPHANIE LIN
California (South)—Massachusetts Institute of Technology
From the AARS President

FOR THE eighteenth year, the Association of American Rhodes Scholars (AARS) is pleased to present this newsletter introducing the newly elected Rhodes Scholars to their predecessors, to each other, to Oxford, and to individuals and educational institutions nationwide. It is indeed a joy to learn about these fine young people who will follow us to Oxford in late September.

In addition to introducing our 2012 Scholars, this newsletter reports on the seventeenth annual Sailing “Bon Voyage” Weekend, sponsored by the AARS for the class of 2011 Rhodes Scholars, which took place in Washington, DC, last September 24-28. This Weekend allowed the new Rhodes Scholars an ample opportunity to become acquainted with each other before traveling to Oxford and dispersing among the colleges. By hearing from and talking with a wide variety of Scholars of all ages in the course of the Weekend, these young Scholars gained a good understanding of how Rhodes Scholars value academic scholarship, pursue public service, and participate in “the world’s fight.” The keynote speaker at the departure luncheon, attended by the new Rhodes Scholars and a number of older Rhodes Scholars, including the Warden of Rhodes House, Dr. Donald Markwell (Queensland and Trinity ’81), was NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous (New York and St. Antony’s ’97).

The AARS fosters intellectual and social fellowship among its members through facilitating events and reunions and through its publications and the website (www.americanrhodes.org). It continues to facilitate the annual transfer of substantial gifts to Oxford, its colleges and related entities through the American Trust for Oxford University. Additionally, the AARS participates in the appointment of the annual Eastman Professor at Oxford and funds the Professor’s salary as well as the maintenance of Eastman House. The quarterly publication of The American Oxonian brings current information about Oxford, articles of interest to the Oxonian constituency, class letters and the annual address list.

Both this publication and the Sailing Weekend described herein are sponsored by the Association of American Rhodes Scholars and are paid for by dues and generous annual contributions of its membership. While financially and organizationally distinct from the Office of the American Secretary to the Rhodes Trust, many AARS activities enjoy the cooperation of the American Secretary in service to the Scholarships. Commended to you is this newsletter’s report from the American Secretary, Elliot Gerson.

On behalf of the AARS and its Board of Directors, I thank you for continuing your vital support.

STEVEN A. CROWN, PRESIDENT
(Washington and Queen’s ’80)
Mohit Agrawal (Indiana)


Proposed Oxford Course: Economics for Development

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Career Aspirations
Economist, academia and policy making; teaching, journalism, and business

The recipient of a Josephine de Karman Fellowship, Mohit Agrawal was awarded a 2011 Mitchell Scholarship and is currently a Mitchell Scholar pursuing a masters degree in economic policy evaluation and planning at the National University of Ireland, Galway. Elected early to Phi Beta Kappa at Princeton, he also served as co-president of Engineers Without Borders. He was awarded a Martin A. Dale Summer Fellowship and led the Ghana School Library Initiative to construct a library in Ashaiman, Ghana, in 2009. Mohit also spent a semester at the National University of Singapore and conducted research at the Department of Defense and UCLA. Mohit was co-chair of the Butler College Council and a board member of the South Asian Students Association. He was active in club tennis and table tennis.
Aysha Nicholson Bagchi

Stanford University: B.A., Philosophy, History, 2011
Proposed Oxford Course: Politics, Philosophy, and Economics

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Career Aspirations
Opinion journalism, public service

Aysha Bagchi graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University with degrees in Philosophy and History and honors in Ethics in Society. While at Stanford, she was one of two students on the University task force created to review undergraduate education. She served as an editorial board member and later a columnist for The Stanford Daily, writing opinion pieces on student life, public service, and the aims of a liberal education. Away from campus, she spent a summer teaching English in two villages in western Hungary and two spring breaks volunteering with humanitarian aid organizations on Arizona migrant trails, co-founding the Stanford Immigrant Rights Project after the first trip. Her thesis evaluated the tensions between child, parent, and state interests in the now 1.5 million cases in which American children are homeschooled for moral or religious reasons. Aysha received awards for her opinions writing, service, and research, and was honored at Stanford’s 2011 Commencement Ceremony with the Lloyd W. Dinkelspiel Award for Distinctive Contributions to Undergraduate Education. Originally from Austin, Texas, she is currently researching and volunteering in Jerusalem.
Alexis K. Brown
(Wisconsin)

Proposed Oxford Course: English Literature

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Career Aspirations
Professor of English

Alexis K. Brown is a senior majoring in English and History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Elected as a junior to Phi Beta Kappa, she was named the outstanding student in the English department. She is founder and editor-in-chief of a national undergraduate journal of literary criticism and has been an editor and poetry reviewer of another literary arts journal. In addition, Alexis has taught reading and math to children from low income families and works as a writing fellow. She is also a figure skating instructor and choreographer.
District XVI

Stephanie Bryson (California–South)

California State University–Long Beach: B.A., International Studies (Western Europe); B.A., German Studies, 2011

Proposed Oxford Course: International Relations

[Image of Stephanie Bryson]

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Career Aspirations
U.S. foreign policy, research and practice

The Valedictorian of the College of Liberal Arts at CSU–Long Beach, Stephanie Bryson graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in 2011 with degrees in International Studies and German Studies as well as a minor in Political Science. Stephanie spent her junior year on scholarship in Berlin—as the only American in a group of 30 students from Russia, former Soviet states, and Israel—working on a research project that explored the politics of memory in Berlin, a topic that informed her Honors thesis. In the fall of 2010, Stephanie completed an internship with the State Department at the US Mission to the European Union, where she served in the office of the ambassador. A native of Southern California and professional surf lifesaver, Stephanie enjoys “all ocean-related activities” and works with the Wounded Warriors Project to help share these joys with veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Stephanie is currently pursuing a masters degree in the MAGES program at the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and interning with the European Parliament’s Office in Washington.
Elizabeth Whelen Butterworth (Massachusetts)

**Princeton University:** A.B., Classics, 2012  
**Proposed Oxford Course:** Comparative and International Education

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**Career Aspirations**  
Education research and policy, classical education and the arts

Elizabeth Butterworth is interested in the intersections between literature and culture, especially “in how texts communicate within shifting cultural and historical contexts.” Her senior thesis explores invective and attack in Horace’s first book of Satires. Liz spent two summers working on archaeological excavations, first as a student at the University of Michigan’s Gabii Project Field School in Italy, and then as an assistant trench supervisor for the University of California–Berkeley excavation at Nemea, Greece. In 2009, she founded a program called Afternoon Tunes at All Saints Church in Worcester, MA, which offers free private music instruction and free instrument loans to students from low-income families. The Afternoon Tunes teachers are advanced high school and college volunteers who work under the mentorship of a professional music instructor and provide lessons to 30 students on 7 different instruments, as well as opportunities for ensemble work. Liz’s experience with Afternoon Tunes has inspired her to pursue a career working on education policy, and particularly to work on increasing access to arts education.
Joshua David Carpenter

University of Alabama at Birmingham: B.S., Business, 2010

Proposed Oxford Course: Comparative Social Policy

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Career Aspirations
Public service; law, public policy, business; education, public-private partnerships

A native of Florence, Alabama, Josh Carpenter graduated magna cum laude from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) in 2010. Josh earned both university and departmental honors and was named Most Outstanding Undergraduate Business Student. While at UAB, he served as student government Vice-President and Chief Justice. He also founded a chapter of College Democrats and a chapter of Impact Alabama, a service-learning initiative designed to teach college students how to prepare tax returns for low-income families. Josh was Co-Captain of the nationally ranked UAB Mock Trial Team and also tutored regularly at two Birmingham city schools. As a Teach for America corps member, Josh has taught English and coached football and baseball at Francis Marion High School in Alabama’s Black Belt for the past two years. Interested in politics and especially public policy, Josh served as a White House intern this past summer in the Office of Presidential Correspondence. At Oxford he plans to study comparative social policy with a focus on educational inequalities and social exclusion that enable social mobility. Ultimately, he intends to return to his home state of Alabama to work in public service.
Nina Ruth Wood Cohen

Bryn Mawr College: B.A., Philosophy, 2012
Proposed Oxford Course: Political Theory

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Career Aspirations
Philosophy of law; judiciary

Nina Cohen will graduate from Bryn Mawr College with a major in philosophy and a minor in French. Her senior thesis analyzes the theoretical relationship of classical liberalism and republicanism, work for which she was awarded the Hanna Holborn Gray Fellowship. In addition to her diverse philosophical interests, Nina is concerned with matters of criminal justice, especially as they relate to the mentally ill. With the support of Bryn Mawr’s Katherine Hepburn Prize, she spent a summer researching the mental health effects of solitary confinement with the American Friends Service Committee. This summer she looks forward to working with Health Law Advocates, a Boston-based public interest law firm, on a project related to streamlining mental health services for adjudicated youth in Massachusetts. At Bryn Mawr, Nina has also been actively involved as a tutor, teaching assistant and mentor, activities she hopes to continue at Oxford. A classically trained musician and avid runner, Nina is also eager to resume her route around Port Meadow, which she explored during her year abroad at St Anne’s, Oxford.
Zachary Crippen
(District XIII)
(Colorado)


Proposed Oxford Course: International Relations

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Career Aspirations
Air Force Officer;
constitutional law, public office

Zachary Crippen is a Foreign Area Studies (Middle East) major who has already earned a minor in Arabic. He has served in a variety of leadership roles, including Vice Wing Commander, the second-in-command of the 4,400-member Cadet Wing. Zachary currently captains the USAFA Mock Trial team and has led the team to compete consistently at national tournaments. He has also played intramural rugby and softball. A co-founder of the Academy’s first-ever Moot Court team, Zachary led the team to national competition in its first year. He has also earned a number of national accolades for excellence in oral advocacy as a result of his efforts in student litigation. Zachary is a qualified military parachutist, a graduate of combat survival training, and has been in command positions leading Basic Cadet Training. His extensive international travel includes study in Egypt and research projects in England, France, and Israel. He hopes to pursue a career in constitutional law and public office.
Brianna R. Doherty (California–North)

Brown University: B.S., Cognitive Neuroscience, 2012

Proposed Oxford Course: Neuroscience

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Career Aspirations
Neuroscience research;
social and medical policy advocacy

Brianna Doherty has spent much of her time studying Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and the possible cognitive and neural impairments that could lead to the social and communication deficits seen in autistic individuals. She has conducted research on neurodevelopment disorders at the UC Davis MIND Institute and has also interacted with many families affected by ASD in clinical settings. Her work has prompted a strong desire to help families better understand the disorder through research and advocacy. Outside of academics, Brianna enjoys painting, dancing, and DJ-ing for a student-run commercial radio station. Her interests in painting and art history culminated in a semester studying these subjects abroad in Florence, during which time she was also able to lecture on St. Peter’s Basilica from the Vatican Gardens, embark on a private tour of the Sistine Chapel, and view Giotto’s Scrovegni Chapel. Certified as a Wilderness First Responder through participation in an outdoor leadership training program, Brianna has spent over 240 hours training to lead a five-day backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail.
Ronan S. Farrow (Maryland/District of Columbia)

Yale University: J.D., Law, 2009

Proposed Oxford Course: International Relations and Politics

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Career Aspirations
Writing, thinking, and creating

Ronan Farrow is a writer, lawyer and diplomat. He graduated with double majors in Philosophy and Biology from Bard College in 2004, where he was the college’s youngest graduate ever, at age 15 (he is now its first Rhodes Scholar). He graduated from Yale Law School in 2009, where he edited the Yale Journal of International Affairs. He is currently serving in the Obama Administration as Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Global Youth Issues and Director of the State Department’s Global Youth Issues office. He assumed his current role following two years as the State Department’s Special Adviser for Humanitarian and NGO Affairs in the Office of the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. His writings have appeared in the Los Angeles Times, the International Herald Tribune, the Wall Street Journal and other publications, and focus primarily on human rights issues in the Horn of Africa. He has appeared as a frequent commentator on major networks and as an expert witness before the U.S. Congressional Human Rights Caucus. Much of Ronan’s work has focused on engagement with marginalized actors such as youth and women’s groups. In his free time, Ronan also works as a musician, with production and writing credits on country, electronica, and rock albums.
Samuel M. Galler

Proposed Oxford Course: International Development

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Career Aspirations
International organizations; social enterprise, diplomacy

Samuel Galler hails from Boulder, Colorado, and will graduate with a joint BA/MA degree in East Asian Studies and a minor in Global Health & Health Policy. A Presidential Scholar, Detur Prize Winner, and Fung Scholar, he spent a summer interning at Tsinghua University in Beijing, interviewing leaders of Chinese NGOs involved in HIV/AIDS as part of his thesis research. As the President of the Din & Tonics and VoxJazz, he has been an avid a cappella singer, spending a summer performing for audiences in fifteen different countries on a world tour. A former National Scholastic Chess Champion and seven-time Colorado Scholastic State Champion, he co-founded an after-school chess program serving a number of local schools. In addition to launching a student-run web design firm, Samuel helped direct an English theatre camp as a volunteer in Wenchuan, China, and taught ESL to residents of Boston’s Chinatown. In his free time, he enjoys playing cello, tennis, salsa-dancing, and learning new languages. He plans to study the influence of technology on organizational development in other societies.
District VI

Nabeel N. Gillani
(Virginia)

Proposed Oxford Course: Education (Learning and Technology)

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Career Aspirations
Professor of computer science; computing and education

Throughout college, Nabeel Gillani served as a research assistant on a biotechnology project and is currently working in Brown’s optimization lab on electricity restoration for disaster relief. As a Microsoft program manager on Microsoft Access and head TA for an introductory computer science course, he learned “the importance of leadership and catering to the unique needs of different groups of people.” Nabeel co-founded a Providence-based microfinance organization, the Capital Good Fund, as well as an outreach program, Learning Exchange, in the Providence public schools to help middle school students learn math. In his spare time, Nabeel enjoys “playing basketball with friends and frolicking in parks.” He is also an avid photographer of cloud patterns in the sky. He feels “most fortunate to be surrounded by a supportive and inspirational family and group of friends.”
Byron Donald Gray
(Washington)

University of Washington: B.A., Political Science; Law, Societies, & Justice; Asian Studies, 2012

Proposed Oxford Course: Social Anthropology

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Career Aspirations
University professor, South Asia; law and society

Byron Gray has pursued a triple major in Political Science; Law, Societies, & Justice; and Asian Studies, as well as a minor in Hindi. He has used the overlap between these disciplines to focus on the society and politics of South Asia. During his nine months of study in India, Byron underwent additional language training in Hindi and Urdu, conducted independent research on the Indian family law system, and interned at a rural development NGO in the Himalayas. Outside of his formal studies, he spent three years working as a writing tutor and is head editor of the University’s undergraduate political science journal. During high school Byron played varsity tennis, placing third in Idaho at the end of his final year of competition. He spends “what little spare time I have running” and has become increasingly interested in martial arts training over the past few months.
Anand Rafiq Habib

District VIII
(Texas)

Stanford University: B.S., Biology, 2011

Proposed Oxford Course: Medical Anthropology

Anand Habib graduated with a major in Biology and honors in International Security Studies, earning the Deans’ Award for Academic Accomplishment, the Walk the Talk Service Leadership Award, and induction into Phi Beta Kappa. His senior thesis analyzed ways that global health initiatives can leverage their funding decisions to improve governance in developing country health systems. He focused his energies outside the classroom trying to improve the health of underserved communities locally and globally. Near Stanford he taught health education to minority school-age children, volunteered as a patient advocate at a community health clinic, and helped raise $65,000 through Dance Marathon, an annual 24-hour event aimed at raising awareness in the global HIV/AIDS fight. Internationally, he designed and taught a health education curriculum at a school in rural India, assessed street children’s familiarity with preventive health behaviors in Oaxaca, and surveyed Mayan women’s thoughts on the importance of prenatal care in Guatemala. He is currently serving as a Global Health Fellow at a clinic in Haiti’s Central Plateau. After Oxford he hopes to pursue a degree in medicine and work with international humanitarian health organizations.

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Career Aspirations
Physician, clinical work and international health policy
Helen E. Jack (New Hampshire)

**Yale University:** B.A., Biology and International Studies, 2012  
**Proposed Oxford Course:** Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

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*Career Aspirations*
Medicine, health policy; addiction and mental health

Originally from Hanover, New Hampshire, Helen Jack is double majoring in Biology and International Studies at Yale, where she was elected early to Phi Beta Kappa. Helen acts as the liaison between Amnesty International and New Hampshire’s members of Congress and trains activists nationwide on legislative advocacy. She has spent the past two summers in Ghana, the first working in a neonatal clinic and the second leading a research project to explore challenges facing staff in psychiatric hospitals. Helen is now using her data to help inform and support Ghanaian mental health policies. For two years she has interned at an addiction clinic in New Haven and she coordinates local and state advocacy campaigns to increase access to syringe exchange. An avid runner and triathlete, Helen was captain of Yale’s club running team and has completed a half Ironman. Following her time at Oxford, Helen plans to attend medical school. She hopes to pursue a career involving patient care and health policy, both domestically and in low-income countries, specifically in the areas of mental health and addiction.
Emma Findlen LeBlanc

(Rhode Island)

**Brown University:** BA, Sociology, 2011

**Proposed Oxford Course:** Social and Cultural Anthropology

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**Career Aspirations**

Anthropologist; writer; photographer; professor

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Emma LeBlanc graduated with a 4.0 GPA from Brown University, where she was a member of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, Common Ground: Justice and Equality in Palestine/Israel, the Open House: Middle East Forum, and Anti-War Action. Her research into the effects of socio-economic status on students’ experiences of university earned her a Karen T. Romer Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award as well as the Sociology Department’s Sociological Methods Prize. She received a Critical Language Scholarship to study advanced Arabic language in Jordan and she continued her Arabic studies in Damascus, where she has lived since 2007. In Providence, she taught art classes for the elderly, and in Damascus she volunteered at the city’s only public asylum, recording residents’ oral histories and translating them from Arabic to English. As co-founder of the Makoto Photographic Agency she has worked as a writer and photographer throughout Syria and Iraq for publications including *GQ, Le Monde,* and the *New York Times.* Emma currently lives in Syria, where she is writing a novel and completing her MFA in fiction from Southern New Hampshire University. She also continues her work as the founder of the Besease Scholarship Program, which funds secondary education for students in Ghana.
Spencer B. L. Lenfield

Harvard University: A.B., History and Literature, 2012

Proposed Oxford Course: Literae Humaniores

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Career Aspirations
English professor and literary critic

Spencer Lenfield is the recipient of Harvard’s Wendell Scholarship, a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, and a Beinecke Scholarship for graduate study. His academic work has focused mainly on British literature, especially the “transition from the Victorian era into modernism.” He is writing his senior thesis on Virginia Woolf’s concept of the individual. As a contributing writer and reporter for Harvard Magazine, he has written on topics as diverse as E. O. Wilson, contemporary classical music, and 18th-century Japanese painting. He is active in the Mahindra Humanities Center, volunteers for kitchen duty at a local homeless shelter, and tutors Boston high school students. In his free time, Spencer enjoys playing the piano, running, and riding his bicycle. A wide-ranging interest in the humanities saw him spend several summers writing while traveling England by train, and studying art history in Paris and Victorian literature at Pembroke College, Cambridge. “The chance to develop a wider humanistic imagination is one of the reasons why I’m excited to be doing a second bachelor’s degree in classics. (That, and also because Romans are cool.)”
Stephanie Lin

District XVI
(California–South)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology: B.Sc., Biology, 2012
Proposed Oxford Course: Evidence-Based Social Intervention; Medical Anthropology

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Career Aspirations
Medicine and public health; infectious disease specialist

Stephanie Lin fell in love with biology within her first two weeks of study at MIT. She has conducted research on herpes viruses and the Toxoplasma gondii parasite in labs at MIT, the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, the UCI Chao Cancer Center and the Barcelona Institute for Research in Biomedicine. She also worked as an advocate for low-income patients through the Health Leads program at the Boston Medical Center. “It was there that I fell in love with the personal side of medicine, and decided to become a physician.” She became a founding Resource Coordinator for Health Leads Boston and, as the MIT Global Poverty Initiative’s Director of Action, led a project helping rural villages in central Mexico access agricultural technologies. She has served as Vice President of Education for the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and was Editor-in-Chief of MIT’s literary magazine. Stephanie is fluent in English, Chinese and Spanish (“Spanish is my favorite”) and has a minor in Applied International Studies. In her spare time she enjoys “playing the piano, reading modern poetry and learning Chinese watercolor.”
Kelsey Rene Murrell
(Kansas)

**University of Kansas:** B.A., English and Creative Writing, 2012

**Proposed Oxford Course:** Refugee and Forced Migration;
Comparative Social Policy

**Preferred Contact Details**

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**Career Aspirations**
Public service through the combination of narrative and policy

Kelsey Murrell is a writer whose plays have received several local and national accolades, including recognition in the New Play Workshop in the Association of Theatre for Higher Education’s national conference. Additionally, Kelsey has studied transnational literature and recently completed an honors thesis on trauma, space, and storytelling in refugee narratives. She is the president and founder of CAST, a group that provides development opportunities for student playwrights. Her writing and student involvement at the University of Kansas has been largely defined “by my engagement in activism and volunteerism motivated by the narratives of others’ experiences.” Kelsey has completed three study abroad programs to London, Costa Rica, and Peru. “Through my study of literature and writing plays, I believe it is truly the stories that move us and create empathy for others. Whether I teach or work on policy or work with an NGO, I hope to bring narrative and policy together for more effective solutions that best serve my national and global communities.”
Ishan Nath


Proposed Oxford Course: Economics for Development

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Career Aspirations
Economic research and policymaking

Ishan Nath’s joint study of economics and earth systems has focussed on energy science and technology. His senior economics thesis examines clean energy stocks and potential prices on carbon in Australia and the United States. Ishan has been involved in public service as an intern at the White House, a consultant to the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling, an intern at the Carter Center, and a teacher at Breakthrough Collaborative, a summer program for middle-schoolers. After Oxford, Ishan plans to pursue a PhD in economics and a career in academic research and policymaking. A member of the Stanford club basketball team and an occasional radio broadcaster for Stanford basketball, Ishan dreams of “taking the court for the Oxford University Blues next year.”
Katherine Elizabeth Niehaus (South Carolina)

**Stanford University:** B.S., Biomechanical Engineering, 2010;  
M.S., Bioengineering, 2011

**Proposed Oxford Course:** Biomedical Engineering (Healthcare Innovation)

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*Career Aspirations*  
Bioengineering; medical innovations

Katherine Niehaus pursued her studies in biomedical engineering and bioengineering after becoming intrigued by the promise of medical innovation. She has been most directly involved with medical device development, and this interest extends to the developing world as well. Over the past year Kate has been working with a 5-person group of students on a jaundice-screening device targeted for rural India. Because “a comprehensive understanding of a new technology’s impact is important in its implementation,” Kate undertook cost-effectiveness research, publishing an ethical analysis on medical device taxation in a Stanford undergraduate journal. Her interests in medical technologies are “closely rivaled by my passion for running.” Elected as a captain in her senior year, Kate ran for the Stanford varsity track and cross-country teams (two-time national champions) and was an individual conference champion (5000m). She continues to train competitively, but foresees herself “transitioning into more of a recreational runner when I arrive at Oxford.”
District II

David Solomon Poritz (Massachusetts)


Proposed Oxford Course: Public Policy/Latin America

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Career Aspirations
National politics

Originally from Amherst, Massachusetts, David Poritz is a recipient of both the Henry David Thoreau and Harry S Truman Scholarships. David has spent the past nine years working to bring about improved practices and increased accountability in the oil and gas sector. While in high school he spent much of his time living and working in Ecuador, where he was the Executive Director of Esperanza Intentional Inc., an organization dedicated to improving the environmental and social responsibility of the oil and gas sector. As Executive Director, he served as a client for the Yale Law School Environmental Protection Clinic where he oversaw the development of the first Pollution Prevention, Remediation and Environmental Restoration Statute for the Republic of Ecuador. Following the success of Esperanza International Inc., David founded Equitable Origin, which has developed the EO100 Standard, the first system to rate the environmental and social performance of oil and gas operations. David is an active long-distance cyclist and runner as well as an advanced skier and snowboarder.
Cory J. Rodgers

University of Pittsburgh: B.S., Biological Sciences; B.Phil., Africana Studies and History, Philosophy of Science, 2012

Proposed Oxford Course: Medical Anthropology

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Career Aspirations
Medicine; public health in developing world

Cory Rodgers has conducted chemistry research on DNA replication enzymes in the lab of Michael Trakselis and also undertook independent anthropological research on a community health program in Mongolia and HIV experiences in rural Tanzania. He has volunteered in both a hospital and a hospice, and as a tutor for a Somali Bantu refugee family resettled in Pittsburgh. During his senior year he has become more involved in advocacy by founding a campus chapter of Americans for Informed Democracy, through which he organized a conference focusing on US policy in regard to global health issues. He is currently facilitating an urban agricultural project with an HIV support group in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, using funding from a Samuel Huntington Public Service Award. Having served as captain of his high school soccer team, he played recreationally throughout college and sees football as “one of the best ways to connect with other youth while abroad in places like Tanzania.” He plans to work in public health and community development in low-income regions of the world.
Miriam Rosenbaum


Proposed Oxford Course: Public Health

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Career Aspirations
Health policy, bioethics

Miriam Rosenbaum is majoring in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, with minors in Judaic Studies and Near Eastern Studies, Language, and Culture. She was recognized by the Scholars in the Nation’s Service Initiative and was also selected as a Jonas Salk Biomedical Ethics fellow and a Center for the Study of Religion fellow. Miriam’s coursework and independent work focus on the intersection between health policy, medicine, and bioethics. For three summers, Miriam worked as a counselor for children with special needs (Camp HASC), as an ESL tutor, and as a leader for a Community Action trip in Trenton, NJ. At Princeton, she served as the president of the Religious Life Council (Princeton’s Interfaith group), the co-president of Sexual Harassment/Assault Advising, Resources and Education (SHARE), and as a student representative on the Faculty-Student Committee on Discipline.
Brett Alyson Rosenberg

Harvard University: B.A., History, 2012

Proposed Oxford Course: International Relations

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Career Aspirations
Foreign service, government, journalism

Brett Rosenberg is writing her senior thesis on the Special Studies Project—a 1956 Cold War study commissioned by Nelson Rockefeller—and its impacts on the formalization of the Kennedy administration’s model of elite and expert governance. As a research assistant to Professor Niall Ferguson, Brett has worked on an upcoming authorized biography of Henry Kissinger. Brett likes to write and has worked with and contributed to publications including the New York Times, Harvard Magazine, and her own satire blog, “Notes From a Mockraker.” Brett loves singing with the Kuumba Singers of Harvard College, a choir dedicated to black creativity and spirituality. In her capacity as a member of the executive board, she has performed both in the US and internationally for such audience members as the late Ted Kennedy, Bobby McFerrin, John Kerry, and John Legend. Brett is an avid runner; she ran the 2011 Boston Marathon and is currently in training for Boston 2012.
Carrie H. Ryan  
(Tennessee)

Sewanee: The University of the South: B.A., Cultural Anthropology, 2012  
Proposed Oxford Course: Evidence Based Social Intervention

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Career Aspirations  
Community organizer; professor

The president of the student body and a student trustee, Carrie Ryan also co-founded the campus diversity coalition and won the 2011 Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award for all public and private universities in Tennessee. She was also honored by Campus Compact as a Newman Civic Fellow. Carrie has led a program in which Sewanee students mentor and tutor students at Grundy County High School. She also founded an organization fostering relationships between high school students and residents of retirement communities. Her interest in serving the elderly and extensive academic work in gerontology led her to two research opportunities—one at the Davis School of Gerontology at the University of Southern California and the other in Visakhapatnam, India. Currently, Carrie is conducting an anthropological and ethical study on Sewanee’s relationship with its neighboring county, Grundy County, using the study to inform University policy and programs.
Tenzin Seldon

(California–North)

**Stanford University:** B.A., Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, 2012

**Proposed Oxford Course:** Refugee and Forced Migration Studies/
Modern Chinese Studies

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**Career Aspirations**
Refugee policy and advocacy

Tenzin Seldon, of Albany, CA, is majoring in Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, with a minor in Feminist Studies. Her senior thesis focuses on intergenerational differences in India. Before Stanford, she received an A.A. from Berkeley City College. A Truman Scholar, Tenzin is an emerging leader in the Tibetan diaspora, having served as regional coordinator for Students for a Free Tibet and an executive member of San Francisco Team Tibet. As a fellow at the Stanford School of Medicine’s Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education, she hosted a dialogue with the Dalai Lama and Chinese students in 2010. She also created a critical thinking program for Tibetan refugee children through the international Haas Summer Fellowship program. Tenzin has served as diversity chair for the Associated Students of Stanford University, as a member of the board of directors of *Stanford Daily*, and in various student advisory groups, including the Program on Human Rights. She is also a student coordinator for President Obama’s Interfaith and Community Service Challenge. Tenzin received the James W. Lyons Award for Service for her “quiet, humble excellence in promoting collaboration between communities and enhancing common ground.”
District X

Sarah N. Smierciak (Illinois)

Northwestern University: B.A., History, Middle East Language and Civilization, 2011

Proposed Oxford Course: Development Studies

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Career Aspirations
Academia and policy, Middle East development

Since graduating summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Northwestern University, Sarah Smierciak has moved to Cairo, Egypt, where she works as an educational consultant at a UN-approved Child Friendly School in a transition house for street children. In previous trips to Cairo, Sarah gained fluency in Egyptian colloquial Arabic and has studied Modern Standard Arabic at the American University in Cairo and at the University of Damascus in Syria on Immersion Language Grants. She has also conducted research on original Arabic sources in Egypt’s National Archives for her history honors thesis, “Communists and Compromise: Egyptian Labor in the Age of Nasser.” Sarah’s experiences in the Middle East have made her committed to promoting development in the region, particularly in the realms of health and education. Her other passions include photography, Arabic poetry, triathlons, and music.
Astrid Elena Martha Louise Stuth (Wisconsin)


Proposed Oxford Course: International Relations

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Career Aspirations
Diplomacy, U.S.-China relations

Astrid Stuth is a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Since receiving a Davis Scholarship to attend Li Po Chun United World College of Hong Kong as a high school junior, she has been fascinated with Chinese language, culture, and foreign relations. After co-founding and directing an initiative to foster understanding and exchange between Iraqi and American high school students as a freshman at Princeton, she spent her two subsequent summers teaching English to underprivileged minority students at a teachers’ college in Hunan, China. After her junior year, she spent a year abroad in Beijing at the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies, honing her language skills. This experience prepared her for an internship as a research assistant at the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy in Beijing last summer. On campus, she has served as President of the all-female Princeton University Tigressions a cappella group and as a Writing Center fellow. She aspires to a career in public diplomacy with a focus on US-China relations, a path that she hopes would allow her “to pursue my passion for intercultural educational exchange and Chinese studies.”
Brandon Edward Turner  (North Carolina)

Wake Forest University: B.S., Biophysics, 2012

Proposed Oxford Course: Evidence Based Social Intervention; Applied Statistics

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Career Aspirations
Academic physician; health policy/research; scientific writing

Born in North Carolina, Brandon Turner has subsequently lived in 8 states. Though he currently resides in Southern California, he attended Wake Forest University, where he studied Biophysics and Sociology. As a freshman and avid lover of computers, he began computational biophysics research, studying connections between the structure and catalytic functions of proteins. He presented his work at local, national, and international conferences. He has played on the Wake Forest Rugby team since his freshman year and served as Vice President and Philanthropy Chair. He was selected to a number of state and interstate all-star teams. He has also helped lead a campus group which organizes service projects. After teaching free computer classes as a volunteer at local public libraries, he designed, directed, and won funding for a partnership with a Cameroonian NGO to build computer labs in Cameroonian schools, teach computer literacy to local children, and establish a computer literacy program to train teachers to teach new computer classes. He has since begun sociology research, studying barriers to proper diabetes management in the local homeless population and specific tools to address their health needs.
Cameron William Turtle (Washington)

University of Washington: B.S., Bioengineering, 2012

Proposed Oxford Course: Cardiovascular Medicine

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Career Aspirations
Development and implementation of novel therapeutics

Cameron Turtle was born in Canada and grew up in the college town of Pullman, Washington. As a bioengineering Honors student, he studied mechanisms of cardiac function and dysfunction in order to advance novel therapeutics with potential to restore heart function after damage or disease. Cameron’s research included the characterization of engineered regulatory protein variants as potential treatments for familial heart diseases such as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, as well as cell therapy approaches to improve cardiac function following heart attack. Cameron was awarded the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and an American Heart Association Undergraduate Student Research Fellowship for this work. Outside of the lab, Cameron is “keenly interested in global and public health.” While at the University of Washington, he co-founded Bioengineers Without Borders, a student group dedicated to finding low-cost solutions to health problems in developing nations. Cameron was captain of his football, basketball, and track teams in high school and competed in numerous intramural athletics throughout his undergraduate years. Cameron is also an avid runner and enjoys spending time outdoors.
Victor Wei Ke Yan

Harvard University: B.A., History and Science, 2012

Proposed Oxford Course: Economics for Development; Public Policy

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Career Aspirations
Social and health care activist

Born in London, Canada, Victor Yang “left the country’s snowfalls to grow up in the beautiful bluegrass” of Lexington, Kentucky. At Harvard, Victor found his interdisciplinary home in the History of Science Department, with a focus in the racial politics of birth control and AIDS activism. His passion for the socio-economic determinants of health led him to Health Leads, a nonprofit that deploys undergraduates as mini-social workers for urban health care. Victor volunteered for and directed the program, creating its first monitoring and evaluation system for the 2,800 families that the Boston site advocates for each year. Away from Boston, Victor served as an advisor to one of South Africa’s provincial governments on antiretroviral service implementation, to the DC Mayor on pathways for disconnected youth, and to the Oxford City Council on economic development. He also “taught English in middle-of-nowhere Bulgaria and farmed in middle-of-nowhere France and Italy.” He is excited to return to Oxford, where he won the Oxford Law Society essay competition and rowed for St. Catz. Victor likes “to fiddle around on the piano, zip through Boston on bike, laugh so hard it hurts, and spend time with the heroes of my life, Mom and Dad.”
THIRTY-FOUR Rhodes Scholars-elect were present for this year’s Sailing “Bon Voyage Weekend in Washington, DC—the thirty-two U.S. Scholars-elect, together with two Scholars-elect from The Common-wealth Caribbean and Jamaica. After a brief orientation on Saturday afternoon, the 2011 Rhodes Scholars-elect and assembled AARS Board members enjoyed an informal dinner and lively conversation at the home of Lissa Muscatine (California and Wadham ’77) in Bethesda, Maryland—an informal setting for Scholars new and old to get better acquainted.

On Sunday morning, the women in the class of 2011 joined Rhodes Scholar alumnae for breakfast and conversation. The breakfast was followed by a panel discussion for Rhodes Scholars-elect, hosted by Ishanaa Rambachan (Minnesota and St. Antony’s 2008) and Garrett Johnson (Florida and Exeter 2006), in which recent Rhodes Scholars discussed the practicalities of life in Oxford. That afternoon, the group walked to the Phillips Gallery for docent-led tour of the collection. In the evening, after a brief introduction to the various activities of the Association, the group enjoyed an informal dinner at the home of the American Secretary, Elliot Gerson (Connecticut and Magdalen ’74).

On Monday, the Scholars-elect heard from the outgoing Eastman Professor, Dr. Edward A. Fisher, the distinguished Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at New York University, and from Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease at the
National Institutes of Health. Both reflected on how their careers took happily unexpected turns and engaged in lively conversation with the Scholars-elect about their research. Dr. Fisher also shared his experience at Oxford as Eastman Professor. That afternoon, Scholars-elect reassembled for a staff briefing at the White House Conference Center. That evening, the Scholars-elect enjoyed a reception and garden party at the residence of the British Deputy Head of Mission Philip Barton and his wife, Amanda Barton.

Tuesday morning began with a breakfast at the Capitol hosted by Senator Richard Lugar (Indiana and Pembroke ’54) and retired Senator Paul S. Sarbanes (Maryland/DC and Balliol ’54), who shared their perspectives on Oxford and entertained questions from the group. After breakfast the Scholars-elect enjoyed a personal tour of the Capitol building, including Capitol Rotunda and the original chambers of the U.S. Supreme Court, led by Senator Sarbanes. Later that morning, Dr. Bruce Partridge (New Jersey and New College ’62) gave a talk reflecting on the unexpected journey of Edwin Hubble (Illinois and Queen’s ’10), who read law at Oxford and went on to make some of the most important discoveries in modern cosmology. After lunch, Scholars-elect met for discussions with international Rhodes Scholars at the World Bank. That evening, Board Members and local Rhodes Scholars hosted small group dinners throughout the DC area.

The annual Departure Luncheon was held at the Cosmos Club on Wednesday, September 28th. The Scholars-elect were guests of the Association and had a chance for informal conversation before the luncheon with
the Rhodes Trust’s American Secretary, Elliot Gerson, and the Warden of Rhodes House, Dr. Donald Markwell (Queensland and Trinity ’81). The Scholars-elect then joined a number of Board members and several spouses as well as many other Rhodes Scholars for a reception and luncheon, during which Elliot Gerson formally introduced the Scholars-elect to the assembly. The keynote address was given by Benjamin Todd Jealous (New York and St. Antony’s ’97), President and CEO of the NAACP. The new Scholars departed that evening by air for London Heathrow, where they were met the next day by American Rhodes Scholars of 2010 and accompanied to Oxford.

The 2011 Bon Voyage Weekend Committee was chaired by George Keys (Maryland/DC and Balliol ’70) with substantial assistance from Neil Brown (Iowa and Merton 2002). Thanks are also due to Lissa Muscatine for generously hosting the Saturday dinner, to Elliot Gerson for hosting the Sunday evening dinner, to Ishanaa Rambachan and Garrett Johnson for organizing the recent Rhodes Scholar panel, to Martina Vandenberg (California and St. Antony’s ’90) and Maryana Iskander (Texas and Trinity ’97) for arranging the women’s breakfast, and to the small group dinner hosts and other Rhodes Alumni guests who do so much to extend the AARS’s welcome to the new class of Scholars. This year’s Sailing Weekend is scheduled for September 23-26, 2012, again in Washington, DC. The Sailing Weekend and the Departure Luncheon are sponsored by the AARS and are supported entirely by the contributions of its members.
From the American Secretary

EVERY YEAR when we publish the short biographies of a new class we assume certain risks, one of them of course that the breadth of extraordinary accomplishments might discourage many worthy applicants the following year. We sincerely hope that will not happen. We remind prospective Rhodes Scholars that there is no formula we look for. There are no preferred majors; no expected extracurricular activities; no prescribed degree of academic breadth, or focus; no expectation of previous foreign study or experience; no requisite leadership positions. And while our Scholarship is famously associated with “sport,” we do not require sporting distinction, though welcome it when it is there. So what do we seek?

We look for exceptional intellectual ability and attainment married with a passion to make the world a better place. And we look for signs of future leadership, not necessarily political leadership, but public-spirited leadership. Cecil Rhodes established the Scholarships in his hope that his Scholars would promote international understanding and peace. That hope animates us this century, just as it did in the last.

We also look for evidence that there is strong reason for serious academic work at Oxford. There are many remarkably able and public-spirited student leaders who meet our criteria but have no convincing reason to spend two or more years at Oxford. Our Scholarship is not for them. On the other hand, given the long odds against selection and the fact that most of our applicants will only go to Oxford if they win a Scholarship, we cannot expect enormous due diligence to have been done regarding the precisely optimal Oxford degree choice. But we do expect convincing demonstration that someone will relish Oxford academically, and thrive there.

This year’s class does well reflects—perhaps unusually well in fact—the breadth and wide variety of academic backgrounds and Oxford careers that our Scholarship rewards. Because of the law of small numbers, this is not always the case. We have no quotas, no targets. Each of our 16 committees elects two people all on the same day. They don’t even seek any kind of balance between the two. Collectively, as I also noted last year, they could in any one year elect 32 government majors or 32 physicists, 32 men or 32 women, 32 from only four colleges, or 32 from 32 colleges. One year might see many winners from small liberal arts colleges and from large state universities. And the next we could see few or even none from either. For the class of 2012, we happened to elect 17 women and 15 men. We elected two who attended colleges that have never before had a winner (Bard College and California State University–Long Beach), and another who spent her first two years of college
in a community college (Berkeley City College). While some winners every year come from a handful of the most highly selective national universities, winners like these—from institutions that have never before had success in the Rhodes competition—should provide encouragement to those many remarkably able students who attend every college and university in the country that our award is not out of their reach.

This year approximately a third of our winners are or will be students of the humanities. In several previous years I have been asked why we had not elected more humanists, and why we seemed to favor social scientists, or natural scientists. There was no reason, as humanists are equally favored. We have not done studies of the majors of our applicants. It is possible that we are seeing fewer humanists apply, and indeed national college surveys have reflected a worrying reduction in the percentage of students majoring in the humanities. But our numbers this year at least should help reassure those who might have mistakenly believed that we are less interested in students of literature, languages, philosophy, fine arts, religion, or history than we are those in social science, biological science, physical science, mathematics or engineering.

The Class of 2012 will enter Oxford at a time when it has never been better to be a Rhodes Scholar. Oxford has always been one of the most vibrant intellectual communities in the world. Now Rhodes House itself adds to that vitality in myriad ways. It is a social and cultural hub, a place for lectures, discussions, concerts and parties. The new class is very fortunate indeed. We wish them well.

ELLIOT F. GERSON

American Secretary to the Rhodes Scholarship Trust
About the Rhodes Scholarships

The Rhodes Scholarships were established in 1902 by the Will of Cecil Rhodes, the British philanthropist and colonial pioneer. Rhodes hoped that the Scholarships might improve “the lot of humankind through the diffusion of leaders motivated to serve their contemporaries, trained in the contemplative life of the mind, and broadened by their acquaintance with one another and by their exposure to cultures different from their own.” Rhodes intended that his plan of bringing able students from throughout the English-speaking world and beyond to study at Oxford University would “aid in the promotion of international understanding and peace.” (See further Oxford and The Rhodes Scholarships.) Each year, 32 Americans are among approximately 80 Rhodes Scholars selected world-wide to take up degree courses at Oxford.

Cecil Rhodes wrote that Rhodes Scholars should “esteem the performance of public duties as their highest aim” and outlined four criteria of selection: 1) literary and scholastic attainments; 2) fondness for and success in sports; 3) truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindliness, unselfishness, and fellowship; and 4) moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in one’s fellow beings.

Interested applicants are encouraged to consult the fellowship office of their own college or university, or the American Secretary of the Rhodes Scholarship Trust: Elliot F. Gerson, 8229 Boone Blvd., Suite 240, Vienna, VA 22182. Phone: (703) 821-5960. Fax: (703) 821-2770. E-mail: amsec@rhodesscholar.org. Or visit the web site at: www.rhodesscholar.org.

About the Association of American Rhodes Scholars

The mission of the AARS is to bring Rhodes Scholars in the U.S. together in support of the Rhodes Scholarship and Oxford University through events, publications, networks, and the web. We provide the social, intellectual and professional outreach to reflect on our shared experiences and extend our current opportunities. We promote exchange and goodwill among the peoples of the diverse countries from which Rhodes Scholars and other Oxonians are drawn.

AARS plans and supports several activities including national and class reunions, regional events, and the Bon Voyage Weekend/Orientation for new Scholars. The Association publishes an annual newsletter, The American Rhodes Scholar, as well as the quarterly journal, The American Oxonian, which includes articles, book reviews, class letters and the annual Address and Occupations List of American Rhodes Scholars and other Oxonians. It also hosts the website www.americanrhodes.org. It administers the Eastman Professorship Trust and the American Trust for Oxford (ATFO). AARS members pay modest dues annually; many members also make generous additional donations. AARS does not receive funding from the Rhodes Trust nor does it have responsibility for the Rhodes Scholar selection process in the U.S.

For membership and further information, contact Nicholas W. Allard, AARS Secretary, c/o AARS, 8229 Boone Blvd., Suite 240, Vienna, VA 22182. Or visit the AARS link on the internet from: www.rhodesscholar.org or directly at: www.americanrhodes.org.